

# Congress of the United States

## House of Representatives

COMMITTEE ON HOUSE ADMINISTRATION  
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[www.house.gov/cha](http://www.house.gov/cha)

April 16, 2007

The Honorable Juanita Millender-McDonald  
Chairwoman  
Committee on House Administration  
1309 Longworth House Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20515

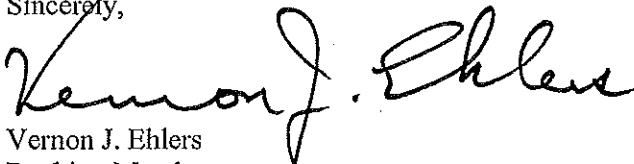
Dear Madam Chairwoman,

As you know, I have deep concerns about the timeliness of the establishment of a Committee task force to act on the election contest filed by Christine Jennings against our colleague, Representative Vern Buchanan. I believe that organizing the task force while Ms. Jennings' case is under careful consideration in the Florida Circuit and Appeals Courts is an inappropriate interference of the federal legislative branch in state judicial proceedings that threatens to deprive this Committee of the valuable complete product of the state judicial process. As both sides of the aisle on the Committee agreed prior to last year's election, initiating Committee involvement in this case prior to the full pursuit of state remedies by the contestant is premature and risky.

Despite my deep reservations about the hasty initiation of this task force, the Republican members of the Committee will be involved in its work. I strongly believe that the work of the task force and its final report to the Committee would greatly benefit from the participation of both Representative Kevin McCarthy and Representative Dan Lungren. The credibility of the task force's final recommendation to the Committee will certainly be strengthened by the participation of these two talented Members. I will appoint Representative McCarthy as the Republican member on the task force and have asked Representative Lungren to participate as an observer as well. Although we may disagree on the timing used to examine issues related to this contest, I know we will be able to continue our practice of working together to bring this contest to a proper resolution.

I realize that outside groups are placing significant pressure on the Democratic Caucus to politicize this Committee's serious responsibilities in consideration of Ms. Jennings' contest against Representative Buchanan, but I urge you to resist that pressure and reconsider this rush to preempt the state proceedings before they have run their proper course. The integrity of our election system and the trust placed in it by the voters of this country demand that this Committee approach this matter deliberatively, not hastily.

Sincerely,



Vernon J. Ehlers  
Ranking Member

CC: The Honorable Charles Gonzalez  
The Honorable Kevin McCarthy  
The Honorable Daniel Lungren